

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the subject application as amended herein is respectfully requested.

The Examine has rejected claims 1, 4, 7-10, 15, 17, 19, 21 and 23 as being anticipated by the Nakase reference. The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. As recited in its abstract, Nakase discloses:

“[a]n optical recording and reproducing apparatus records the audio and video signals to an optical disk by dividing the audio and video signals for one frame into top and bottom audio and video signal components. The top and bottom audio signal component are recorded to a predetermined track on disk sides A and B referenced to the rotation position detection information preformatted thereon, respectively.”

Nakase goes on to describe a disc on which half-tracks are recorded on the two sides of a disc. The two heads are used to read data from each half track located at the same location on the two sides. The data from the two half-track is combined to obtain a full video frame. The patent pertains to a scheme for providing a still picture from the disc. However, for the purposes of the present invention it is critical to note that the two heads are always positioned at the same radial distance on the disc because, otherwise there is no way for the device to read the two half-tracks. Accordingly it is respectfully submitted that the reference fails to disclose ‘a laser head controller that controls the accessing movement of said laser heads to position said laser heads independently from each other along respective sides of the disc to provide

random access to any data segment” as required in claim 1 and, accordingly, it this reference does not anticipate claim 1. The remaining claims have similar limitations and, accordingly they are not anticipated by this reference either.

Claims 1-6 and 10-25 are rejected as being anticipated by the Mitzutani reference. The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Mitzutani refers to a magneto-optical drive (or MO drive) in which a laser is directed at a section on one side of a disc and a magnet is placed on the other side of the disc. The laser melts the disc section and the magnet imposes a magnetic orientation to the disc section. Data is arranged on the disc in concentric circles, and not in spirals as described herein. Data is then sensed on the disc by determining the magnetic orientation of the disc section.

In summary, there are several fundamental differences between an MO drive and the DVD-type drive described and claimed herein. First, an MO drive writes discs differently than a DVD or optical disc drive. The MO drive melts a section of the disc and then imposes a magnetic orientation on the melted section. An optical drive makes pits on the disc that changes its reflectivity. Second, the MO and an optical drive read data differently. The MO drive detects the magnetic orientation of a disc section. The optical drive detects the reflectivity of a disc. When taken together these factors define a completely different technology and accordingly, a person skilled in the art would not consider an MO drive relevant to an optical disc. Accordingly, the Mitzutani reference is irrelevant to the present invention.

In addition to the general concepts covered by the independent claims, the present invention includes specific features that are not found in the prior art, as discussed in the previous submission. For example, as discussed at length in the

application, standard discs are structured so that they are always turned in one direction because a player will access only one side or the other. However, the disc presented herein can be rotated in one direction if one side is up, and in the other direction is if the second side is up. Therefore, as indicated in claim 23, before a disc is played, a determination is made on the direction in which the disc is to be played. The Examiner takes the position that circuits 112 and 117 in Nakase perform this function. The Applicants disagree since there is nothing in the reference to indicate that the inventor recognized this problem, let alone provide a solution for it. Mitsutani fails to disclose this feature as well. Accordingly it is respectfully submitted that the claims related to this feature are patentable independently of the limitations of the features of the independent claims.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject application is now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
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